

introduce a resolution this afternoon regarding the institution in East Timor. Among its provisions, this resolution notes the abject failure of the government of Indonesia to fulfill its responsibility to guarantee the safety and security of the people of East Timor and calls on the government of Indonesia to terminate the current violence in East Timor.

The resolution also expresses the support of the House for a United Nations Security Council-endorsed multinational force for East Timor which, under duress, President Habibie has agreed to permit.

Australia is willing to lead this force and should be commended and supported. We need to get that force into East Timor now. The United Nations surely knew that some degree of violence would follow the announcement of the election results. It is a tragedy they were so unprepared for the rampage of the militia forces.

Given the human tragedy that has been unfolding in East Timor and the pressing need for the House to speak out for action against the violence and mayhem there, it is the intention of this Member to move this East Timor resolution through the Committee on International Relations and bring it to the House floor as expeditiously as possible.

Therefore, any colleagues who would like to be original cosponsors of this resolution should contact the subcommittee at 67825 this afternoon.

#### TRIBUTE TO CHICAGO JOURNALIST PHIL WALTERS

(Mr. RUSH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, this morning I rise to pay tribute to the life of a respected journalist, a superb writer and a true Chicagoan. Phil Walters covered the streets of Chicago with his own unique style and in his own brilliant way. He shared Chicago's life and times with millions of television viewers for more than 30 years.

My relationship with Phil began some 30-odd years ago when as a reporter for NBC's Channel 5 he covered me in my work as a civil rights activist. Even then, as a young journalist, Phil's insightful reporting and the passion he brought to telling Chicago stories proved to be award winning. The man and his work will be long remembered and long cherished by Chicagoans for years to come.

Phil Walters passed on Sunday, September 12, 1999, and is survived by his wife Paula Weiss and his son Tyce. Our condolences are with his family and with his friends.

#### ELIMINATE THE MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY NOW

(Mr. WELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker. I have often asked from the well of the House a basic question. That is, is it right, is it fair, that married working couples with two incomes pay higher taxes just because they are married? I have often asked, is it fair, is it right, that 21 million married working couples pay \$1,400 more on average in higher taxes just because they are married?

Meet Michelle and Shad Hallihan, two Joliet school teachers, young people just starting a family, just had a baby. They suffer the marriage tax penalty just like 21 million other married working couples.

It is an issue of fairness, an issue of difference between right and wrong. The end of July, this House and the Senate voted to eliminate the marriage tax penalty for a majority of those who suffer it, benefiting over 21 million married working couples.

The President has an important choice. Is he going to help families like Michelle and Shad Hallihan, 42 million Americans who suffer the marriage tax penalty, or is he going to practice partisan politics?

I hope the President will join with us in a bipartisan effort to eliminate the marriage tax penalty by signing into law the Financial Freedom Act. Let us eliminate the marriage tax penalty.

#### ANTI-AMERICAN TRADE AND TAX POLICIES

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, remember the Singer sewing machines? Most married couples in America had one. Today the Singer Company filed bankruptcy in New York.

The Singer Company is now headquartered in Hong Kong. They make their sewing machines in Japan, Brazil, and Taiwan. It is called the New World Order, Mr. Speaker.

Here is how it works: American factories move overseas. They send their products back and sell them in America. If it does not work out, they go bankrupt and screw the American creditors. What a system.

I yield back all the anti-American trade and tax policies that this Congress continues to support and pass.

#### KEEP AND MAINTAIN ERISA, THE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind my colleagues of the many benefits of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, better known as ERISA. After all, voluntary ERISA-based employer self-insured plans cover nearly 80 percent of the workers in this country.

ERISA retains the State's authority over the business of insurance. It also ensures that plans would be subject to the same benefit laws across the States. ERISA provides flexibility by allowing employers and employees to agree to choose a benefit package which best suits their needs. This approach keeps costs down because it allows them to do so without the government regulation that drives the costs up.

Make no mistake about it, the chief beneficiaries of preempting ERISA would be the trial lawyers. Consumers and employers will be left to pick up the bill for increased and often frivolous litigation.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress must ensure the patient's right to care, not the lawyer's right to bill.

#### NOW IS THE TIME TO CLEAN UP THE SPECIAL INTEREST MONEY MESS THAT DOMINATES OUR CAMPAIGNS

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, today this House has an important opportunity to clean up the special interest money mess that dominates our campaigns. Approval of the bipartisan Shays-Meehan campaign finance reform legislation can go a long way in correcting some of the wrongs that dominate this Congress.

To get real change, however, we must approve this bill without any change. The amendments that are being offered, the substitutes, some of them appear to be direct, straightforward efforts to kill this legislation. Others of them are in seemingly innocuous form but the sole purpose of every amendment, every substitute, is to block reform.

Last year, the Republican leadership, every single Member of the Republican leadership of this House, voted against reform. And they managed to delay consideration of this bill, delay it long enough that they finally succeeded in killing it.

Today we call on them to join with us, to join with leaders on both the Republican and Democratic side, in support to reform, in cleaning up this mess, so that we can move forward to address the real issues that concern the American people.